

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An automotive grille comprising:

a substrate having a first and second side and dimensions adapted to be mounted to the front of a vehicle, wherein the substrate includes a plurality of decorative members defining a plurality of exposed surfaces and a plurality of front faces having at least one channel formed therein positioned adjacent the first side of the substrate;

a plurality of mounting structures attached to the substrate on a second side opposite the first side, wherein the plurality of mounting structures are adapted to secure the substrate to the vehicle; and

at least one decorative weather resistant member having at least one guide complementarily dimensioned to the at least one channel formed in the front faces of the plurality of decorative members of the substrate wherein the at least one decorative weather resistant member is secured to the at least one front face to substantially cover the at least one front face to further inhibit oxidation of the at least one front face of the substrate.

2. (Original) The grille of Claim 1, wherein the substrate is formed of aluminum and the at least one decorative weather resistant member is formed of stainless steel.

3. (Original) The grille of Claim 1, wherein the at least one decorative weather resistant member is secured to the at least one front face by friction fitting of the at least one guide within the at least one channel.

4. (Original) The grille of Claim 1, wherein the channel defines a hole and the guide defines a pin, the pin configured to be secured within the hole defined by the channel to thereby secure the decorative weather resistant member to the decorative member.

5. (Original) The grille of Claim 4, wherein the channel defines a plurality of holes and the guide defines a plurality pins configured to complementarily join the decorative weather resistant member to the decorative member.

6. (Original) The grille of Claim 1, wherein the at least one decorative weather resistant member is secured to the at least one front face by adhering the at least one guide within the at least one channel.

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7. (Original) The grille of Claim 6, wherein epoxy is used to adhere the at least one guide within the at least one channel.

8. (Original) The grille of Claim 1, wherein the front face of the decorative member is a horizontally extending elongate member.

9. (Original) The grille of Claim 1, wherein the at least one decorative member comprises a plurality of decorative members.

10. (Original) The grille of Claim 1, wherein the at least one decorative weather resistant member comprises a plurality of decorative weather resistant members.

11. (Original) The grille of Claim 1, wherein the at least one decorative weather resistant member comprises a plurality of metallic strips.

12. (Original) The grille of Claim 1, wherein the exposed surfaces and the front faces are substantially coated with a coating material to inhibit oxidation of the substrate

13. (Original) The grille of Claim 12, wherein the coating material comprises a powder coat material.

14. (Original) The grille of Claim 12, wherein the coating material in the region of the channel is prepped prior to introducing the guide within the channel.

15. (Original) The grille of Claim 14, wherein the coating material in the region of the channel is polished, sanded, or removed prior to introducing the guide within the channel.

16. (Original) The grille of Claim 12, wherein the coating material is unaltered when the guide is introduced within the channel.

17. (Withdrawn) An automotive grille comprising:

a substrate having a first and second side and dimensions adapted to be mounted to the front of a vehicle, wherein the substrate includes a plurality of decorative members defining a plurality of exposed surfaces and a plurality of front faces having at least one guide formed therein positioned adjacent the first side of the substrate;

a plurality of mounting structures attached to the substrate on a second side opposite the first side, wherein the plurality of mounting structures are adapted to secure the substrate to the vehicle; and

at least one decorative weather resistant member having at least one channel complementarily dimensioned to the at least one guide formed in the front faces of the plurality of decorative members of the substrate wherein the at least one decorative

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weather resistant member is secured to the at least one front face by joining of the guide within the channel to substantially cover the at least one front face to further inhibit oxidation of the at least one front face of the substrate.

18. (Withdrawn) The grille of Claim 17, wherein the at least one decorative weather resistant member is secured to the at least one front face by friction fitting of the at least one guide within the at least one channel.

19. (Withdrawn) The grille of Claim 17, wherein the channel defines a hole and the guide defines a pin, the pin configured to be secured within the hole defined by the channel to thereby secure the decorative weather resistant member to the decorative member.

20. (Withdrawn) The grille of Claim 17, wherein the at least one decorative weather resistant member is secured to the at least one front face by adhering the at least one guide within the at least one channel.

21. (Withdrawn) The grille of Claim 17, wherein the exposed surfaces and the front faces are substantially coated with a coating material to inhibit oxidation of the substrate.

22. (Withdrawn) The grille of Claim 21, wherein the coating material in the region of the channel is polished, sanded, or removed prior to introducing the guide within the channel.

23. (Withdrawn) The grille of Claim 21, wherein the coating material is unaltered when the guide is introduced within the channel.

24. (Original) An automotive grill comprising:

a substrate having a first and a second side wherein the substrate has a plurality of mounting structures that mount the first side of the substrate to the vehicle and wherein the substrate further includes a plurality of decorative members that extend at least in part across the front of the vehicle when the substrate is mounted to the vehicle; the plurality of decorative members further defining a plurality of exposed surfaces with a plurality of resistive members secured to the decorative members along at least one of the exposed surfaces so as to define an interface therebetween wherein the plurality of resistive members and the plurality of decorative members collectively define a channel and a guide that interconnect the plurality of resistive members and the plurality of decorative members that engage with each other so as to secure the plurality of resistive members to the plurality of decorative members.

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25. (Withdrawn) The grill of Claim 24, wherein the channel is formed in the resistive member and the guide is formed in the decorative member.

26. (Original) The grill of Claim 24, wherein the channel is formed in the decorative member and the guide is formed in the resistive member.

27. (Original) The grill of Claim 24, wherein the decorative members are secured to the resistive members by friction fitting of the guide within the channel.

28. (Original) The grill of Claim 24, wherein the channel defines a hole and the guide defines a pin, the pin configured to be secured within the hole defined by the channel to thereby secure the decorative member to the resistive member.

29. (Original) The grill of Claim 24, wherein the exposed surfaces of the decorative structures adjacent the interface are coated with a coating material to inhibit oxidation of the substrate.

30. (Original) The grill of Claim 29, wherein the coating material in the region of the channel is polished, sanded, or removed prior to introducing the guide within the channel.

31. (Original) The grill of Claim 29, wherein the coating material is unaltered when the guide is introduced within the channel.

32. (Withdrawn) An automotive grill comprising:

a substrate having a first and a second side wherein the substrate has a plurality of mounting structures that mount the first side of the substrate to the vehicle and wherein the substrate further includes a plurality of decorative members that extend at least in part across the front of the vehicle when the substrate is mounted to the vehicle wherein the plurality of decorative members define a first face and respectively have a protrusion that extends laterally outward from the plurality of decorative members at a position removed from the first face; and

a plurality of resistive members that are mounted to the plurality of decorative members via a mounting cavity formed within the resistive members that is dimensioned to receive and engage with the protrusion of the decorative members so as to facilitate securing the plurality of resistive members to the decorative members.

33. (Withdrawn) The grill of Claim 32, wherein epoxy is interposed between the mounting cavity of the plurality of resistive members and the protrusion of the plurality of decorative members to adhere the plurality of decorative members to the resistive members.

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34. (Withdrawn) The grill of Claim 32, wherein the exposed surfaces of the decorative members are coated with a coating material to inhibit oxidation of the substrate.

35. (Withdrawn) The grill of Claim 32, wherein the resistive member further comprises a cap structure defined by a U-shaped cross section with a base section and two arms wherein the engagement surface comprises a flange that formed on one of the arms that extends in a direction having a component substantially parallel to the base section so as to engage with the protrusion of the decorative members.

36. (Withdrawn) The grill of Claim 35, wherein the protrusion is spaced a distance from the front face of the decorative member a distance that is substantially equal to the length of the arm of the U-shaped cap structure containing the engagement surface.

37. (Withdrawn) The grill of Claim 32, wherein the decorative member includes an outer surface formed of a hardened material.

38. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a grill component of an automobile, the method comprising:

forming a substrate of the grill so as to be dimensioned to be interconnected to the front of a vehicle and so as to have a plurality of decorative members; and

interconnecting a resistive member to the decorative members by positioning a protrusion on the decorative member into a channel formed in the resistive members.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 38 wherein, the decorative members are formed to have a hardened outer surface.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 38 wherein, epoxy is interposed between the protrusion of the decorative members and the channel of the resistive members to adhere the plurality of decorative members to the resistive members.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 38, wherein exposed surfaces of the decorative members are coated with a coating material to inhibit oxidation.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 41 wherein, the coating material comprises a powder coating.

43. (Original) A method of forming a grill component of an automobile, the method comprising:

forming a substrate of the grill so as to be dimensioned to be interconnected to the front of a vehicle and so as to have a plurality of decorative members; and

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interconnecting a resistive member to the decorative members by positioning a channel formed in the decorative member about a protrusion formed in the resistive members.

44. (Original) The method of Claim 43 wherein, the decorative members are formed to have a hardened outer surface.

45. (Original) The method of Claim 43 wherein, epoxy is interposed between the protrusion of the resistive members and the channel of the decorative members to adhere the plurality of decorative members to the resistive members.

46. (Original) The method of Claim 43, wherein exposed surfaces of the decorative members are coated with a coating material to inhibit oxidation.

47. (Original) The method of Claim 46 wherein, the coating material comprises a powder coating.